

Republican ranks, despite all the talk of harmony and party regularity. The Deenen-West crowd is closer to Sullivan than to Thompson, and Republican leaders with state ambitions are stringing their wives for the state election next year on the assumption that a Republican governor will be elected. Some of them will fear the strength of Thompson in state politics if he is elected mayor of Chicago.

And undoubtedly there are Republican leaders who would feel entirely comfortable if Thompson were defeated for mayor and out of the way next year. Among these may be the publishers of Republican papers in Chicago who would prefer a Republican governor they can handle and who feel their advertising interests would be safer in Sullivan's hands than in Thompson's.

Before the primaries the undercurrent was for Sweitzer and Thompson, and both were nominated. Now the undercurrent appears to be with Thompson, despite the big start Sweitzer has in the Democratic majority in Chicago. This undercurrent isn't controlled by the newspapers. It is the sentiment of the people themselves. Events may transpire that will change it, for you never can tell what will happen in politics. Either of the candidates may make a break that will break him.

It's always a good plan for independent voters to not commit themselves too early in the campaign. They might want to change their minds. Better first be sure what all candidates stand for, and then vote as you please.

SHORT ONES

Roosevelt for president on the dry ticket. Set 'em up in the other alley.

Berlin has restricted the use of autos to about one in five. Perhaps war is not so bad after all.

Spring is come; our battleship plants are beginning to blossom. Pennsylvania already has bloomed.

THE PUBLIC FORUM

RELIGION.—I must congratulate Mr. Edw. Freeman upon his broad-minded views on religion and further wish to add that a person never consults his religion when in a fit of rage and about to commit a crime.

The difficult and serious problems that are facing the workers of today should be sufficient cause for every working man to co-operate—and forget religion.

The longer the worker will hold onto impractical and unnecessary superstitions—the longer he will remain in the rut. Why despise and ridicule the Turks, Chinese and other idol worshippers when the modern religious fanatic is in the same boat?

Evidently Mr. D. F. Gibson of Rogers Park cannot bear the truth about religion and likens the subject with the drug fiend, who must have his dope through force of habit.—A Reader.

"MY COUNTRY."—About 112 years ago this country experienced considerable difficulty with its Mediterranean shipping.

The dey of Algiers, who controlled the Mediterranean, did quite a flourishing business by piracy and amassed considerable wealth by forcing the various countries to pay a tax for the privilege of using the waters which he controlled.

This was very obnoxious to the American government, so they dispatched Stephen Decatur with orders to convince the dey of the error of his ways, which Decatur promptly did by shelling the capital and burning a few Algerian ships which were in the harbor while the dey was busily engaged in enlarging his harem. Decatur came back covered with glory. His slogan was, "My country, right or wrong."

Recently about 800 gentlemen assembled in solemn session to discuss the ills of this country and discover, if possible a panacea. The discus-